

# BGSU | Faculty Senate

## BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate Minutes

March 28, 2023 // 2:30 - 4:30 // Via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Allen Rogel, 2:32 pm

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Attendance: Quorum requirement met

Faculty Senate Secretary, Montana Miller, took attendance via Zoom. Alternates indicated their presence in the chat box.

3. **CHAIR REMARKS:** *Allen Rogel, 2022-2023 Faculty Senate Chair*

President Rogers is not here; he is in Columbus in discussions regarding Senate Bill 83, because as he put it in a recent leadership meeting, “*If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.*” [Note from Rogel: we are paraphrasing Elizabeth Warren’s quote “If you don’t have a seat at the table you’re probably on the menu.”]

Clarification about BGSU policy on communicating with legislators: you may state your affiliation with BGSU but make it clear you’re expressing your views as a private citizen, not speaking on behalf of the university. Checked out with General Counsel Natalie Jackson. [Policy number 3341.5.8 on the policy register]

Academic Calendar Committee is meeting to review two proposals for future calendars next week

Committee to review curricular review process is being formed.

Senator elections are finally taking place after various delays, some colleges have completed them, others just getting started.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

*Joe Whitehead, Provost and SVPASA*

[In chat:]

A&S CMA EDHD SCOB CTAAE HHS

Case 1 10 3 2 6 4 3

Case 2 13 1 6 2 4 3

Case 3 26 0 6 4 4 9

Case 4 18 3 6 10 6 9

Initial analysis of PVA's, this is how it broke down

Grad PVA analysis:

CASE I programs exceeded all the metric thresholds.

- CASE II programs fell below the thresholds of 1 to 3 of the metrics.
- CASE III programs were below all the metric thresholds.

Metric Master Threshold Doctoral Threshold

FTE > 15 FTE > 12 FTE

5-year FTE change > 7% change > 7% change

Degrees awarded per year > 7 degrees > 4 degrees

Completion Data (FT) > 85% completion > 55% completion

Completion Data (PT)\* > 70% completion N/A

Case I: 15

Case II: 55

Case III: 6

Suspended: 14

New programs: 6

Nested Master's: 3

Relaunched Requested FY24 Total Approved

A&S 4 29 6

SCOB 1 13 7

CMA 1 2 3

HHS 1 4 2

CTAAE 2 9 6

EDHD 2 7 5

*Senate Bill 83*: Legislative Services Committee is trying to determine the fiscal impact, which kicked into motion initiatives by Provosts to try to assess fiscal impact, e.g. what would it cost for us to publish every syllabus... they would have to be extracted from Canvas or submitted by departments... what would be the cost of offering a history/government course, here students have a requirement with different choices... also looking from a legal standpoint at the language in the bill.

Questions?

Chair Rogel: Firelands is not listed in the data provided; did they have a separate PVA analysis?

Provost Whitehead: They were not in the first undergrad PVA analysis, because we cannot distinguish between the two campuses in the system. They will be in the second PVA which just went out recently.

Jolie Sheffer: Question about relaunched/requested faculty lines, and what happened in Arts & Sciences, why is it so far out of line compared to the other colleges?

Provost Whitehead: We're looking at vacancies, the only money we have comes from vacant lines, and we had the highest number of relaunched searches and then accreditation issues we had too. A number of factors come into play and there's only so much money in the pool.

Jolie Sheffer: What about faculty who have left and are not being replaced? A lot of folks have left through retirement or going to other places and not been replaced.

Provost Whitehead: You can't look strictly at percentages here because you guys are just larger than the other colleges. There should be two positions approved for CMA when relaunched for a total of 3. They have a small faculty compared to arts and sciences. We're trying to look at this on a not year only basis but address the needs over a number of years. We can't address all the needs in just one year.

Tim Messer-Kruse [in chat]: Has anyone been charged with assessing what programs require DEI as a requirement of outside professional accreditation? This would be helpful info on lobbying on SB 83. Thank you.

Provost Whitehead: Yes we're looking at that.

There is some wording in HLC on DEI.. we can make the case that DEI is required by these agencies and therefore the language in senate bill 83 is contrary to us retaining accreditation.

Chair Rogel: President Rogers also mentioned to me the accreditation issue and HLC requirements as something he would be talking about with senator Cirino and others today.

Bill Albertini: The approved column in the hiring data—is that the total approved including relaunch or approved out of the new requests? The latter? [Provost: Yes]

If we can't just look at a single year, at the next meeting can we have more data to do proper comparisons?

Provost Whitehead: It's difficult because there are things that happen between these initial requests each year. Things are fluid in a sense. I'll ask each dean to have a conversation with their colleges about how this works and the conversations that go on between them and us, I think that is the best way to do it.

Jason Whitfield [in chat]: Could someone indicate what specific campus committee(s) are looking into the professional accreditation issue related to DEI requirements and SB83? Thank you

Provost Whitehead: We're trying to have maximum impact early in the process. IUC is trying to take the information and put it into a standard format so we have a unified front going forward. They are reaching out to me, the CFO and Natalie Jackson at BGSU, and if you have information you want included let us know. We are trying to engage Cirino and as things build we will have more and more information. You faculty are welcome to pull committees together and get more information to us. There is not a well defined approach at the moment except to get information from about ten different institutions in different formats.

Chair Rogel: The Committee on Professional Affairs would normally be in charge of that and I'm in communication with them. Feel free to reach out to contact me or David Jackson who also knows a lot about this. All hands on deck at this point.

*Ben Batey:*

Allergy season is upon us...

Zero use of emergency Covid housing

Tiffany Knoell [in chat]: Could it be that they're not using the emergency housing? I have had several students with Covid, but none went to that space.

Ben Batey: That is absolutely a possibility.

Chair Rogel: Will that space be available indefinitely/next year?

Batey: We haven't made a decision on that, it might be general emergency housing for other situations as well, that will be a conversation over the summer with Res Life. Federally the pandemic will be officially over on May 11...

Peter Blass [in chat]: There seems to be an unusually large amount of stomach flu. Comments?

Batey: We're generally referencing Norovirus when people say stomach flu... it would be expected at this time of year, winter into spring, it is something we're watching as well.

*Amanda Taylor, GSS President:*

GSS resolution 1: Asking graduate faculty to include research resources in their syllabi for the fall...

<https://www.bgsu.edu/library/services/for/faculty/for-your-teaching.html>

Please let TA's know about this too

Resolution 2: Proposed, not passed yet. Publically address the recent actions of the governor of Florida, the attack on academic freedom, and now Senate Bill 83 in the mix. Many faculty will take summer off but if there are 2 or 3 faculty members who wouldn't mind supporting this effort with GSS it would be appreciated—providing past resolutions from Faculty Senate and other frameworks to work with. We need to make it clear we are not speaking for the university but we would like to bring a resolution forward that speaks to our path forward as this affects grad students as many of us will be sitting beside you in the future. Layered advocacy. Amanda anastasio is contact person for this.

Third: Friendly reminder about the resource project, please contribute to it...

Finally, Charles Shanklin Awards ceremony is April 5, we're very excited about it, featuring grad students' research.

Paper Presentations (Including the Creative Expression Contest) 12:15-5 PM BTSU 314, 315, 316

Poster Presentations 1-3 PM BTSU Ballroom

Research Excellence Finalist Presentations 3-5 PM BTSU 308

Final Ceremony and Awards 7-9 PM BTSU Ballroom

*Zach Noesen, USG President:*

This is my final report as USG President

USG has this Saturday a large event, a 5K on campus to benefit pancreatic cancer research

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashnetg/static/storefront/bgsuOCA14/catalog>

Trying to get a crosswalk between parking lots E and D as there are no safety measures at that location. A petition went around and had meetings with city, it is going well.

Next, resolution passed to get menstrual products increased on campus, that is going well from the executive side.

Final resolution: Echoes what Amanda said about increasing library resources for information literacy in introductory courses.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

*Approval of minutes from last meeting:*

Motion by Jenn Stucker to approve, second by Michael Decker

Vote: Approved by majority hand vote

*Special election*

Marlise Lonn presents nomination of Robyn Miller for Vice Chair; seconded by Jenn Stucker

Rogel asks for any other nominations; none offered

Qualtrics poll/vote:

[Subsequent communication from Marlise Lonn:

“58 Senators indicated attendance at today’s meeting

52 voted for Robyn Miller

Thank you and welcome to the newly elected vice-chair/chair elect, Robyn Miller.”]

*Name change for Human Development Family Studies to Science*

SEC moves to approve name change; Jolie Sheffer seconds the motion

Chair Rogel calls question, this will be sent out as Qualtrics poll, please vote by 11:30 tomorrow morning.

Qualtrics Result: 52 for, 1 against, 0 abstain. Motion passes.

*Resolution of support for USG resolution about Election Day*

Damon Sherry presents resolution: As a public university for the public good, encouraging better engagement and better turnout

Also, Election Day is an emotional day; students tend to prioritize classes over elections, which is not good for democracy. BGSU Votes tries to get students registered on campus/as an Ohio voter, we can work with them on events to get students registered and this has been a 7-month process. GSS passed the resolution unanimously, as did USG.

Zach Noesen: Since USG passed this resolution, other universities' student governments have reached out to us seeking advice on how to pursue similar initiatives. It is being seen and respected by student governments at other universities.

Damon Sherry: We would be the second public university to do this in Ohio, the first being the University of Cincinnati. We would be the first student-led initiative in the state of Ohio to get this day off.

Chair Rogel: Motion to consider the resolution in support as posted on the website?

Daniel Pavuk moves, Kitty Burroughs second

Discussion?

Chair Rogel: SEC did not express an opinion, but thought this should go to the full Senate.

Peter Blass [in chat]: The issue of not reducing class contact minutes is very important, since class time is short as it is. How will that work?

Chair Rogel: USC is calling for a committee to examine this, and the calendar committee is also considering things – if they add a week back then we have extra minutes more than required by the Ohio revised code. If we stay at current number of weeks the potential to make fall break one day and use that day to move it to election day in order to not reduce contact minutes.

Kim Rogers [in chat]: This topic seems relevant for the committee considering options for the academic calendar to integrate into the proposed future calendar options

Melissa Keith [in chat]: Could you sub Veterans Day for Election Day?

Chair Rogel: Veterans organizations feel this is not an acceptable option to move the observation of that day

Amy Robinson [in chat]: Great idea, consistent with university mission, and impressive student leadership on this!

Jolie Sheffer [in chat]: I think this is an exciting proposal. I believe there is plenty of evidence that making Election Day a holiday increases participation in democratic voting. The proposal fits the mission for inclusion and equity, too.

Bill Albertini [in chat]: I think this is an exciting proposal too. The more voting the better!

Chair Rogel calls question, will go out through Qualtrics poll, voting open till 11:30 am tomorrow.

Qualtrics Results: 41 for, 10 against, 2 abstain. Resolution passes.

### *Committee Reports:*

#### *CIO John Ellinger Presentation on Classroom Technology*

Consistency of experience, cost, and simplifying training. 141 classrooms in classroom pool. 4 standard packages—large lecture halls, enhanced large classrooms 40-100 seats, and then unique spaces that are one of a kind classrooms.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/faculty-senate/documents/Agendas/22-23/Faculty-Senate-Classroom-Technology-presentation-final-3-28-2023.pdf>

Bill Albertini: Question about accessibility, what are we doing to bake it in at the basic level and whose voices are involved?

Ellinger: Folks are in touch with you faculty and with particular students, through accessibility services. Whenever we see accessibility questions or problems come up we try to get on top of that as fast as possible to solve the immediate problem and then to promote it going forward, so we don't have to be as concerned by going back to the buttons, but them being buttons rather than a touch screen that you might not be able to see if you have a visual impairment.

Jolie Sheffer [in chat]: Thank you, John. I encourage you to build in plans for microphones in most (if not all) classrooms, as this is helpful even in non-lecture classrooms to improve inclusion.

Bill Albertini: I want to echo what Jolie said in the chat, there is a cost to these things but having microphones available in the classroom is an accessibility issue, we're asked a lot of times to adjust our teaching on the fly, we don't always see everything ahead to know what we are going to need. Having that stuff in the system already, looking at these plans along the way, could make these things built in from the beginning.

John Ellinger: Let me report back to you on portable mics, where we put them in the classroom, at what level, how many seats, etc.

Marlise [in chat]: Not everyone who may have had difficulty seeing or hearing has a qualifying disability.

Bill Albertini [in chat]: Absolutely, Marlise. I have some impaired hearing and don't have a qualifying disability, but it does affect me and having a mic built into the room can be a big help when I need to hear.

*New Athletic Director Derek van der Merwe:*

I've been here 4 months now, it's been a very good experience... ; great to see the women's victory against Florida last night I have been at 4 different institutions over my career and have had a chance to see both power. 5 institutions as well as small FCS Schools, mid majors. And I can tell you that the responsibility in my role is to really ensure that I'm effectively connecting what we do in athletics with the mission of the university, regardless of the type of institution. It's very important that we make a solid stake and claim that we are part of the institution, and that we're contributing each and every day to what is considered the central mission -- academic mission and overall mission -- of the university. One way we are going to do that, and we've already started an exhaustive way of looking at how we connect directly with the institutional strategic plan, those 16 different initiatives that are identified, that range from how we connect with our students, and how do we engage our students? And how do we create platforms where we help them with success and retention? And help them with persistence throughout their experience? ... I'll be engaged with meeting students this summer encouraging them to participate in sport whether it's through club programs ... whether it's being part of student organizations that support our venues ... larger events and community events that we host. We employ a significant amount of students at different facilities.. in supporting these large events and community events that we host. Then there's also the external mission that we support, and supporting alumni from around the country and donors who see us through the lens of Athletics. Also supporting alumni, donors, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December we had 2.3 million households from around the country viewing a football game. We create a stage through which we can tell the great story about what BGSU is and what our brand stands for.

There is roughly 4,329 institutions in higher education. There's only 131 FBS institutions. These institutions represent the best of some of the higher educational institutions around the country. We compete against Florida like we did last night. We showed our student athletes you can walk into an arena, and that you can come from a mid major institution, and you are just as good as any student athlete that steps onto that arena from Florida. We'll do the same when we competed against UCLA, and we go into Michigan, and we go into Ohio State, and we go across the country and represent Bowling Green, is we're making a statement about what our brand means and what that certificate means on that wall.

I'm pretty passionate about this mission. I believe we have a great responsibility to live up to it to make sure that the academic integrity of our program, that the academic commitment to recruiting students that reflect that mission, and that that we're providing environments that are conducive to the retention of our general student body. We want to be a part of a great, powerful experience.



Questions:

Tim Brackenbury [in chat]: Are there rules/regulations regarding the number of days that a student can miss classes due to athletic events? I have a student athlete who will miss at least 10 sessions because of competitions and travel to them. That seems excessive.

Van der Merwe: Yeah. There are no rules specifically... However, there is best practices on how we can advise students to try to minimize those types of conflicts and to identify the greater areas that we are seeing significant conflicts in scheduling. Some of that happens in specific majors where there are no better options, and at those intersections we need to work on a better balance. Wherever I've been I've looked critically at those challenges. Mitigation, maybe changing practice periods, in order to support their attendance in class. I need to know when those problems are developing and at that significance of a level, maybe look more critically at how I can partner with our academic faculty to try to support the reduction of those types of conflicts.

Montana Miller: As a former university athlete in college myself, and as a professor who has a lot of athletes in my classes, this is something I think a lot about and care a lot about. But also as a faculty member in a program or a school that is constantly being told that there's not enough money for us to have the staff that we need, and the faculty we need—and I do understand that these are not the same budget—so I do get that—but I would really like to hear from you what you're thinking about fiscal responsibility, because I have to say I was really concerned about hearing that the basketball coach was fired, for apparently no cause, besides that they were not having a winning season and hadn't had one for a couple of years? And when I read that his contract was going to have to be paid out in full for the next two years, and that this was going to cost our University almost a million dollars, and now we're like getting a new coach, and it seems like he was a beloved guy who wasn't doing a bad job... that caused me a lot of concern about, what is the fiscal responsibility of the University to just be responsible? We all are hurting for money, and to hear something like that happen when it doesn't seem like he necessarily did anything to deserve being fired made me really alarmed. So I wonder if you could speak to that?

Van der Merwe:

I'll speak to two separate points. One, I want to address just the overall financial position, and then I will address specifically in general terms how I measure and metric coaches. I will not speak specifically to the decision on whether to retain or terminate that particular coach. I don't think that, that I'm not going to go into that, but from an overall position, the context of spending in higher education for athletics. It's interesting is we see big numbers, and what we do is, we don't have any really context for those numbers. And so we, we compare it to maybe individual departments, and spending, and say, or, or compensation, and say, Well, this is not comparable to this particular ecosystem. But you have to look across the ecosystem and look at the cost of the enterprise itself. The majority of our expenses sit in travel expenses, the majority of

our expenses sit in hosting games or large event management or medical support. You know, all of these different areas of direct support for the enterprise.

And I think that if, if that's something that the Senate would like to take a look at is the true context around the numbers and understanding it so we can take a look at what is the true cost, and how it's being defined in supporting it, then the next question begets, is the enterprise itself worth it? Is that justified? Because if we agree that the enterprise itself is adding value to the experience of both our students and to our campus and our community as well as to our alumni, and how they connect to the institution, then we can sit there and back end and say is the expense appropriate, given that commitment of sport? I think that is the exercise I would be more than happy to take. But that begins to qualify you know why we spend what we spend, and is it appropriate. Because I do believe, wherever I've been, we've never had enough money, no matter what type of institution. I do think we have a great responsibility to make sure we are appropriately managing it. We provide context to what is appropriate, I'd be more than happy to have that conversation.

Secondly, on staffing decisions, the metric of winning and losing is not the sole metric that I have any interest in. I think that we have a greater responsibility as a mission, and I would like the chance to to communicate what I believe is that greater mission—first off how we engage students across our campus is critical to that mission. If you were at the women's basketball game last night you saw 800, 900, 1000 students that are in your classes coming and being a part of a community experience and sharing something that's very powerful. Athletics provides the platform to do that. Our coaches have a responsibility to engage and be part of building that platform. That's really central to the mission of who we are and what we are. If we are not engaging the students and becoming intrinsically part of our campus communities we're failing. If we're not engaging our local community and they're not seeing it as an asset and what their community experience is from the standpoint of economically, how they want to spend, and how we draw people from around the country to come and experience the brand of what we are as a higher educational institution, we're failing. If we're not competing on national stages and being effective and representing that brand, we're failing. If our student athletes are academically underachieving we're failing. If we're not engaging donors. If we're not engaging alumni from around the country to want to come back and return and participate in the experience of higher education, we're failing. The sole metric of winning and losing is a very narrow perspective to look at overall. It's indicative of, maybe of a broader problem. But the broader mission of what our coaches are asked to do is much more significant. Our coaches, for example, and I've talked to our band director about this, John Waters, I said, we went into over 1,000 high schools in four months, this last fall, representing and wearing the brand of Bowling Green in those high schools, I said, John, what can we do to help you grow band students? Can we go in there and meet the band director every time we go in and recruit a student at that particular high school? I think that there's natural affinity to take on opportunities to share responsibilities and helping to grow the overall mission. And we can do that through good partnerships and being thoughtful about how those partnerships can grow. I think our coaches have that responsibility to be part of that mission, so it's not just about a football game. It's about supporting that broader mission, and being responsible for that as, as coaches at this university.

Ken Snead [in chat]: Is the athletic portal concept creating issues related to facilitating academic success for students?

Van der Merwe: I 100 percent think it is. When we talk about the voice of the student in the governance of how the NCAA is making decisions, this is a priority. Is it in their best interest? There needs to be a lot more discussion. To rebalance that is something we hope the NCAA will do.

Chair Rogel: [Thanks Derek van der Merwe] It's entirely possible that a Senate committee may reach out to you to do it more deep dive with, you know, having more time to look into things.

### *Committee Reports*

Chair Rogel: [SEC]: Elimination of Environmental Education minor caused some questions with SEC so we had conversations with the dean of the college etc. This was approved at SEC last week after some discussion and back and forth with the college. It seemed that it did fit the mission of the university but we wanted to be careful.

CAA: No report

CPA (Chair Rogel): They are engaged in emails regarding Senate Bill 83

Fiscal Affairs Advisory: No report

ComCom: Marlise Lonn: Stay tuned for nominations for Senate officers and standing committees; we appreciate you including that in your important service to the university

Amendments and Bylaws: No report

Adjunct Faculty Committee: Kim Fleshman: no report

Ohio Faculty Council, David Jackson: [no report; in Columbus]

BGSU FA: Bill Albertini: [both in chat and speaking]

### **BGSU FACULTY ASSOCIATION (BGSU-FA)**

The BGSU Faculty Association strives to support faculty, respond to faculty concerns, and bargain for and enforce a robust collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Next meeting is Thursday April 6 in the evening and Senate Bill 83 will be a major topic.

One way to keep up with the BGSU-FA, to ask questions, and to share your concerns is to attend our membership meetings. The next one is TOMORROW at 1:00 PM. All Bargaining Unit Faculty Members (BUFMs) are welcome—please come! To register: [bit.ly/fameetings](https://bit.ly/fameetings) .

Membership Meetings and CBA Bargaining: Bargaining for the next collective bargaining agreement (CBA) will start this summer. This will also be a topic at the next meeting. Membership meetings are a chance to share your thoughts about the next collective bargaining agreement. In addition, the chief negotiator and negotiating team will be announced at tonight's meeting.

Questions? Contact Senator and BGSU-FA Membership Chair and Faculty Senator, Vera Lux (University Libraries) [vera.lux@bgsu-fa.org](mailto:vera.lux@bgsu-fa.org) .

Office Visits: Finally, the BGSU-FA is conducting office visits to meet with faculty. These are listening visits — we want to hear from faculty about what matters to you and what you want in the next collective bargaining agreement (CBA). If you have questions about or interest in office visits, please let us know! It's a great way to see colleagues and learn more about the university. Contact Professor Becky Mancuso (History) at [rmancus@bgsu.edu](mailto:rmancus@bgsu.edu) .

## **7. ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Bill Albertini: I would like to request that we get longitudinal data about position requests and approval percentages, as Jolie Sheffer noted. We need more data to look at to represent the faculty and think about the mission of the university and staffing is part of that.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

[Chair Rogel thanks interpreters and everyone, also Zach Noesen for work as USG president and Amanda Taylor as GSS president]

Motion to adjourn by Michael Decker  
Seconded by Gene Trantham  
Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m. ;)

NOTE: Senate meetings are open to the public. Supplemental materials supporting proposed action item(s) may be sent to Senators only. Senators are expected to stay through adjournment.